Application No. Not Yet Assigned Paper Dated: April 27, 2006

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of N/A Attorney Docket No. 3988-052787

10/577752 IAP17Rec'd PCT/PTO 37 APR 2006

Customer No. 28289

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Please replace original claims 1-11 with the following rewritten claims.

1-11 (Cancelled).

12. (New) A device for filling liquid or pasty products having lumpy fractions and free flowing, pourable lumpy products, comprising a storage container; means for opening or closing an outlet of the storage container; a gravity tube arranged underneath the storage container including at least one flexible side wall; and means for mechanically pressing-in the at least one flexible side wall of the gravity tube, wherein the means for mechanically pressing-in the side wall of the gravity tube includes rotatable elements for deforming a cross-section of the gravity tube and, further wherein the rotatable elements are driven rotatably about an axis of rotation running substantially parallel to the gravity tube.

- 13. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the gravity tube includes a polygonal cross-section, each flexible side wall is deformable, and separate means for mechanical pressing-in are provided for each side wall.
- 14. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the gravity tube has a substantially round cross-section and the means for mechanically pressing-in the at least one flexible side wall of the gravity tube are distributed uniformly over a circumference of the gravity tube.
- 15. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein the means for mechanically pressing-in the at least one flexible side wall of the gravity tube are arranged rotatably about an axis of the gravity tube.

{W0261756.1}

3

Customer No. 28289

Application No. Not Yet Assigned

Paper Dated: April 27, 2006

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of N/A

Attorney Docket No. 3988-052787

16. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the means for mechanically pressing-in the at least one flexible side wall of the gravity tube are arranged in a manner adapted to be displaced in the axial direction.

- 17. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the rotatable elements are constructed as rollers.
- 18. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the rotatable elements are constructed as cams.
- 19. (New) A method for filling liquid or pasty products having lumpy fractions and free flowing, pourable lumpy products by means of the device according to claim 12, comprising:

pressing-in the side wall of the gravity tube with the means for mechanically pressing-in to intermittently deform the flexible side wall of the gravity tube inwards.

- 20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the deformation of the side wall of the gravity tube takes place simultaneously.
- 21. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the deformation of the side wall of the gravity tube takes place staggered in time.
- 22. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the means for mechanically pressing-in the side wall of the gravity tube acts uniformly over an entire circumference on the side wall of the gravity tube.